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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS: HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

New international humanitarian order

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on 14 December 1990 dealing with humanitarian matters: resolution 45/101, entitled "New international humanitarian order", and resolution 45/102, entitled "Promotion of international cooperation in the humanitarian field".

2. In resolution 45/101, the General Assembly encouraged Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that had not yet done so to provide their comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. It also invited Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action.

3. Further, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report on the progress made by them to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

4. In resolution 45/102, the General Assembly encouraged the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to international humanitarian activities; called upon Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations further to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field; and invited all non-governmental organizations concerned with the humanitarian issues examined by the Independent Commission and working with strictly humanitarian motives to bear in mind the recommendations and suggestions made in the report of the Independent Commission in the context of their policies and actions in the field.

5. The present report is submitted purusant to resolution 45/101.

6. In preparation of the present report, the Secretary-General on 3 May 1991 sent notes verbales to Governments to inquire whether they wished to contribute views or information to the report. Appropriate inquiries were also sent, on the same date, to United Nations organs and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations in consultative status and to the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues.

7. As at 10 June 1992, substantive comments on the topic had been received from the Central African Republic, Ecuador, the Holy See, Niger and Panama. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) also sent relevant communications. Information was also received from the United Nations Volunteers, a non-governmental organization.

8. At its forty-third session session in 1991, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted decision 1991/107, entitled "Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards". The Subcommission, noting with interest the working paper containing the Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards, adopted by a meeting of experts convened by the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, in Turku/Åbo, Finland, from 30 November to 2 December 1990 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/55), decided without a vote to give due attention to the working paper in its future work. That document is reproduced in section III of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

[Original: French]

[17 January 1992]

1. There are two main humanitarian problems facing the Central African Republic: those relating to the situation of refugees and those relating to the situation of disabled persons.

A. The situation of refugees

2. A sum of 275,050,000 CFA francs has been made available by the United Nations for a population of nearly 10,000 refugees in the Central African Republic. These refugees are distributed as follows:

(a) 8,400 Sudanese refugees at Mboki;

(b) 560 Chadian refugees at Bossangoa and Boubou in Ouham;

(c) 84 Chadian refugees at Kaga-Dandoro;

(d) 956 refugees of various nationalities (Sudanese, Eritrean, Angolan, Chadian, South African, Ugandan, Liberian, etc.) at Bangui.

3. These funds are managed, on the one hand, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and executing agencies having contractual relations with it, namely:

(a) The Canadian Organization for Solidarity and Development;

(b) The National Commission for Refugees;

(c) The Department of Health;

(d) The Department of Education;

on the other hand, by agencies of the United Nations system, namely:

(a) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);

(b) The World Food Programme (WFP);

(c) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

and, lastly, by other international organizations and certain non-governmental organizations, namely:

(a) The European Economic Community (EEC);

(b) Médecins sans Frontières (MSF);

(c) The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

4. Given the disparity and the diversity, in both kind and intensity, of the needs that exist, this aid is inadequate and falls short of requirements. The figure mentioned above was intended to cover the period from March to July 1991 and primarily targeted Sudanese refugees at Mboki; as noted above, it does not cover all needs and must be increased if the aid is to have a positive impact.

B. The situation of disabled persons

5. In view of the unsuitability of social action based on assistance, the Department of Social Affairs of the Central African Republic, at its meetings on "the role and place of social action", defined a new social action policy in 1985.

6. The new policy puts beneficiaries at the centre of development action, as the main participants responsible for their own self-advancement.

7. The five-year social development plan set itself six main targets for the year 1990. One target was to help prevent physical and social handicaps among underprivileged and marginalized groups.

8. In the context of reintegration in society, this plan has yielded the following positive results:

(a) The organization of seminars on the socio-vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons and street children, held jointly by the African Rehabilitation Institute (ARI), the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) and the Government;

(b) The strengthening of specialized schools;

(c) The organization of the national day for disabled persons in the country's hinterland.

9. We shall consider in turn:

(a) The organization called the National Organization of Disabled Persons (ONAPHA);

(b) The contributions currently being made towards meeting the needs of disabled persons;

(c) An appeal for aid in favour of disabled persons.

The National Organization of Disabled Persons

10. There is a lack of statistical information on disabled persons. The types of disabilities encountered are:

(a) Physical disabilities (polio-paraplegia);

(b) Visual handicaps;

(c) Sensory handicaps (deaf and deaf-and-dumb).

11. Disabled persons are represented by the National Organization of Disabled Persons. The aim of this organization, which was established in 1981, is the self-advancement of disabled persons. It is responsible for specialized schools such as the school for the blind and the deaf. These establishments, which used to be supported by the Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM, Germany) and the Foster Foundation, are now suffering financially because of the withdrawal of those donors.

12. It must be pointed out that not all disabled persons are active within ONAPHA, a fact which does not make the task of the organization, namely, the advancement of disabled persons, any easier. Those who are members have been taught carpentry, basketwork and sewing.

Contributions currently being made towards meeting the needs of disabled persons

13. The annual budget of the Department of Social Affairs, one of whose tasks is to promote the advancement of disabled persons, includes a sum for the purchase of tricycles, which are essential to the mobility of those who are unable to walk. The social reintegration service manages through the financial service a sum of 3,498,000 CFA francs which makes it possible to buy not only tricycles but also goods such as soap, sardines and loincloths to meet the needs of the most seriously disadvantaged.

14. In addition to this allocation, the Government provides ONAPHA directly with an annual subsidy of 2,500,000 CFA francs to cover certain essential running expenses. For 1990, the subsidy was 6 million CFA francs. It should be borne in mind that the Department of Social Affairs has a duty to meet all requests wherever they come from in the country, but that the funds allocated are not adequate to meet everyone's needs.

Appeal for aid in favour of disabled persons

15. The situation of disabled persons requires the involvement of national and international institutions in looking for solutions to each case that arises.

16. The proposals made here will be for:

(a) Financial support by donors for the purchase of special cars for disabled persons;

(b) Support for specialized schools in order to lessen the feeling of disabled persons that they are always looked after by others;

(c) Support for ONAPHA so that it can play its role as a catalyst in the search for ways and means of ensuring the self-advancement of disabled persons.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[4 December 1991]

1. Ecuador considers the establishment of a new international humanitarian order to be of vital importance. The considerations and proposals contained in the various resolutions on this subject form part of the enduring values of Ecuadorian society: to establish the bases for enhancing the well-being and improving the living conditions of its members, within a framework of respect for the human person and his or her fundamental freedoms.

2. The new international humanitarian order must be grounded essentially in the search for lasting peace based on international cooperation, freedom, sovereignty and respect for human rights, in order for it to be sufficiently effective when it is eventually established.

3. Ecuador considers that the international community should intensify its efforts to consolidate principles which, at the same time, redound to its benefit inasmuch as they promote the right of peoples to peace.

4. In this connection, the current Political Constitution provides in:

(a) Article 2: "The primary function of the State is to strengthen national unity, ensure respect for fundamental human rights and promote the economic, social and cultural progress of its inhabitants".

(b) Article 3: "The Ecuadorian State proclaims peace and cooperation as a system of international coexistence and the juridical equality of States; condemns the use or threat of force as a means of resolving conflicts; and repudiates armed despoliation as a source of law. It advocates the settlement

of international disputes by legal and pacific methods and declares that international law is a standard of conduct for States in their reciprocal relations. It advocates also the international community and the stability and strengthening of its agencies ..."

(c) Article 44: "The State guarantees to all individuals, male and female, who are subject to its jurisdiction the free and effective exercise and enjoyment of the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights set forth, in the declarations, pacts, agreements and other international instruments in force".

5. For its part, the 1989-1992 National Development Plan identifies the main problems facing the country:

(a) Inappropriate orientation of its production structures and development styles, particularly in the agricultural and industrial sectors;

(b) Failure to strengthen the national identity and recognize the multinational and multicultural character of Ecuador;

(c) Lack of representativity of the institutions of formal democracy and absence of formal channels for political and institutional participation;

(d) Reduction in the relative autonomy of the State vis-à-vis economic pressure groups;

(e) Poor organization and limited participation and social mobilization;

(f) Increasing marginalization of youth from the process of national development;

(g) Discrimination against women;

(h) Absence of a policy of information and mass communication geared to the needs of national development;

(i) Insufficient domestic scientific and technological capacity to support national development;

(j) Failure to rationalize energy production and consumption and dependency of the energy sector;

(k) Heavy dependency of the production sector and the financial system on State resources;

(l) Geographical imbalances in the physical, political, economic and social fields and inequitable distribution of the benefits of development;

(m) Depletion of natural resources and degradation of the environment.

6. It is in these areas, as perhaps in none other, that the principles of solidarity and cooperation among peoples are most important. Ecuador is of the view that support should be given not only to any effort aimed at consolidating the rules of this new order, but also to all the initiatives or actions that seek to promote, at the national and international levels, greater and more effective cooperation in the humanitarian field and, specifically, in the face of situations brought about by natural disasters.

7. Consequently, it fully understands and firmly supports measures aimed at dealing with situations caused by unforeseen circumstances or force majeure.

8. In this regard, the National Security Act provides in:

(a) Article 2: that the State guarantees the survival of the community, the defence of the national heritage, and the achievement and maintenance of national objectives. Its primary role is to strengthen national unity, guarantee respect for fundamental human rights and promote the economic, social and cultural progress of its inhabitants, by countering adverse internal and external factors, through political, economic, social and military plans and actions.

(b) Article 82: that civil defence is an ongoing service which the State provides to the community and which elaborates and coordinates measures of all kinds aimed at predicting and preventing disasters of any origin; limits and reduces the damage which such disasters might cause to persons and property; and undertakes in the affected zones emergency action to permit the administrative regime to continue to function in all areas of activity.

(c) Article 98: that the sphere of action of civil defence covers all the national territory. It may, however, provide assistance to other countries which are adversely affected by natural disasters.

HOLY SEE

[Original: French]

[29 October 1991]

1. Certain views are given below which might merit closer consideration when international and national programmes are being planned.

2. The number and severity of humanitarian problems could be reduced, thus giving the new international humanitarian order a more solid foundation and enabling it to render more effective services in the right conditions. Certain changes should take place in the international order, so as to ensure a greater degree of liberty, equality and fraternity among nations; respect should be assured for the moral principles of dignity, equity and reciprocity in the rights and duties of peoples and of mankind in general; and there should be clear recognition of the responsibility which rests with those

groups of political and economic powers who, in effect, determine and dictate the rules of the international game.

3. The aspiration to establish a new international humanitarian order is tantamount to conceding that the previous international humanitarian order was ineffectual, deficient and bankrupt. Before embarking on any new project it is essential to elicit all these shortcomings, to examine the ways in which the old order failed and to pinpoint the root causes of its failure. In the interests of honesty, it is essential to spread this awareness of the underlying reasons for the promotion of a new international humanitarian order; this fundamental educational strategy will help global awareness of the gravity of the world's problems and of the necessity to find solutions to them.

4. Such efforts to disseminate and heighten awareness are required in all areas. The system, or the humanitarian order, of the United Nations, its philosophy, its principles, its objectives and so forth, should be known well beyond the confines of government or elite ruling circles. Dissemination of this kind requires popular commitment and participation, which, in turn, must become a moral and political factor in the life of the world's nations, thereby securing the respect and support of those in power.

5. Prominent among the dramatic developments which every day affect millions of people in the world and which render it essential to review not only the international humanitarian order but also the very concept and system of the community of nations, is the grave problem of emigrés, refugees and displaced persons. The phrase used by Pope John Paul II, "the world, the shared house of humankind", could be taken as a point of reference for the examination and prioritization of juridical and legal considerations and also, and above all, of the moral and truly humanitarian aspects of these dramatic developments, with a view to establishing norms and laws which will effectively solve the world's problems, including that of hunger.

Promotion of international cooperation in the humanitarian area

6. Taken as a whole, the available technical resources are still insufficient to solve the problems which pose a constant threat to international equilibrium. It is essential to recognize the importance of the ethical dimension in relations among peoples, nations and States, and to ensure that this dimension is given appropriate weight. To this end, efforts could be made to implement certain specific proposals which draw inspiration from the social doctrine of the Church and which are specifically designed to address the causes of inhuman situations, namely:

(a) More attention should be given to recognizing and defending the dignity of every human being, man or woman, adult or child, and also before birth; this should be done not only through declarations of rights, useful though these may be, but also though effective monitoring and punitive mechanisms when faced by situations in which this dignity is systematically flouted;

(b) At the same time, increased attention should be given to the paramount importance of peace. In this area, efforts must be made to ensure that there is a universal will to say "No" to war, as a means of assuring peace; for humanitarian and educational purposes, other, equally severe penalties could be established: the closing of embassies, total diplomatic isolation; penalties which would be imposed on States and not on peoples.

7. The principles of reciprocity, solidarity and effective collaboration are essential conditions when addressing major issues in the life of the international community.

8. Efforts must be stepped up to resolve conflicts of interests between nations and to take appropriate measures to guarantee the economic stability of the large population areas, especially in the politically weak and economically dependent countries.

9. Active cooperation must be established and developed to ensure deeper understanding between nations, with a view to promoting justice and respect for human rights both at the international level and within individual countries.

10. Besides such traditional issues as health and education, particular attention should be given to young people to help them overcome their indifference, weariness and political disillusionment, engendered by the major social conflicts into which they were born and in which they have grown up without the hope of ever glimpsing a better world.

11. In more specific terms, efforts should be made:

(a) To accord greater importance and to assign more resources to the activity of non-governmental organizations, which have proved extremely useful in the field of humanitarian assistance;

(b) To ensure the wider involvement of non-governmental organizations in cooperation for humanitarian assistance in the event of disasters and in emergencies, since they have the practical ability to conduct such activities;

(c) To draw non-governmental organizations more closely into programmes to promote integrated development, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the most disadvantaged groups.

NIGER

[Original: French]

[25 March 1992]

1. In their capacity as the guardians of the law, the police of the Republic of Niger respects and protects traditional individual freedoms, collective freedoms, and the social rights provided for in law. The National Police

School teaches police cadets the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, and compliance with procedural requirements.

2. However, a new international humanitarian order and the promotion of cooperation in this field can be achieved only through the efforts of the States parties to the various conventions, protocols and other diplomatic instruments relating thereto.

3. The Republic of Niger is happy to apply these instruments, while bearing in mind that the principle of the sovereignty of States is a barrier to the development of international law, given the intervention in human rights questions is an area in which political resistance is strongest, because it is viewed as interference in the internal affairs of States. This defensive reflex, whereby authoritarian States profess to repel a purported threat to their sovereignty, is today coming face to face with the irresistible process of democratization. The people of Niger have embarked on this process of democratization, and the development to which they aspire is based on international standards in the humanitarian field.

4. The Republic of Niger is therefore strengthening its international cooperation, within the framework of existing mechanisms, in order to promote the humanitarian measures (mutual respect, tolerance, establishment of a fairer and non-violent world) which will be a product of the new order desired by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

PANAMA

[Original: Spanish]

[12 August 1991]

1. The Government of Panama welcomes all measures designed to strengthen the instruments and procedures for safeguarding the new international humanitarian order and to improve the human rights situation in general. Frequent violations of humanitarian principles, and universal ignorance of the substance of those principles and of the problems and limitations they face, have been a considerable barrier to the application of such measures. We believe that the new humanitarian order should be based on the search for peace, with particular emphasis on ending the arms race, avoiding the use of force in international relations and combating racial discrimination, while stressing the importance of establishing new and effective structures to promote health, culture and justice.

2. Appropriate laws must therefore be adopted, incorporating the procedures necessary to guarantee the full application of international standards in the humanitarian sphere. It should be stressed that the Government of the Republic of Panama, as a country which cherishes peace and international cooperation, is a signatory to international instruments which lay the

foundations for international humanitarian law, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. These principles are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Panama. The Republic of Panama is striving to improve overall living conditions and is establishing mechanisms to facilitate international cooperation among all peoples, based on freedom, independence, national sovereignty, equality and respect for the human person.

3. Nevertheless, particular attention must be given to the promotion, exercise and general acceptance of the right to peace, which is a fundamental individual and collective right of citizens and nations. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to secure the world-wide acceptance and universal application of all existing legal instruments in order to establish a new international humanitarian order.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

A. United Nations

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

[Original: English]

[12 August 1991]

Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards

(Adopted by an expert meeting convened by the Institute for Human Rights, Åbo Akademi University, at Turku/Åbo, Finland, 30 November-2 December 1990)

Recalling the reaffirmation by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of faith in the dignity and worth of the human person;

Considering that situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency continue to cause serious instability and great suffering in all parts of the world;

Concerned that in such situations human rights and humanitarian principles have often been violated;

Recognizing the importance of respecting existing human rights and humanitarian norms;

Noting that international law relating to human rights and humanitarian norms applicable in armed conflicts do not adequately protect human beings in situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency;

Confirming that any derogations from obligations relating to human rights during a state of public emergency must remain strictly within the limits provided for by international law, that certain rights can never be derogated from and that humanitarian law does not admit of any derogations on grounds of public emergency;

Confirming further that measures derogating from such obligations must be taken in strict conformity with the procedural requirements laid down in those instruments, that the imposition of a state of emergency must be proclaimed officially, publicly, and in accordance with the provisions laid down by law, that measures derogating from such obligations will be limited to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, and that such measures must not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, social, national or ethnic origin;

Recognizing that in cases not covered by human rights and humanitarian instruments, all persons and groups remain under the protection of the principles of international law derived from established custom, from the principles of humanity and the dictates of public conscience;

Believing that it is important to reaffirm and develop principles governing behaviour of all persons, groups, and authorities in situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency;

Believing further in the need for the development and strict implementation of national legislation applicable to such situations, for strengthening cooperation necessary for more efficient implementation of national and international norms, including international mechanisms for monitoring, and for the dissemination and teaching of such norms;

Now, therefore,

Proclaim this Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards

Article 1

This Declaration affirms minimum humanitarian standards which are applicable in all situations, including internal violence, disturbances, tensions and public emergency, and which cannot be derogated from under any circumstances. These standards must be respected whether or not a state of emergency has been proclaimed.

Article 2

These standards shall be respected by, and applied to all persons, groups and authorities, irrespective of their legal status and without any adverse discrimination.

Article 3

1. Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. All persons, even if their liberty has been restricted, are entitled to respect for their person, honour and convictions, freedom of thought, conscience and religious practices. They shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction.

2. The following acts are and shall remain prohibited:

(a) Violence to the life, health and physical or mental well-being of persons, in particular murder, torture, mutilation, rape, as well as cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other outrages upon personal dignity;

(b) Collective punishments against persons and their property;

(c) The taking of hostages;

(d) Practising, permitting or tolerating the involuntary disappearance of individuals, including their abduction or unacknowledged detention;

(e) Pillage;

(f) Deliberate deprivation of access to necessary food, drinking-water and medicine;

(g) Threats or incitement to commit any of the foregoing acts.

Article 4

1. All persons deprived of their liberty shall be held in recognized places of detention. Accurate information on their detention and whereabouts, including transfers, shall be made promptly available to their family members and counsel or other persons having a legitimate interest in the information.

2. All persons deprived of their liberty shall be allowed to communicate with the outside world including counsel in accordance with reasonable regulations promulgated by the competent authority.

3. The right to an effective remedy, including habeas corpus, shall be guaranteed as a means to determine the whereabouts or the state of health of persons deprived of their liberty and for identifying the authority ordering or carrying out the deprivation of liberty. Everyone who is deprived of his or her liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings by which the lawfulness of the detention shall be decided speedily by a court and his or her release ordered if the detention is not lawful.

4. All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated humanely, provided with adequate food and drinking-water, decent accommodation and clothing, and be afforded safeguards as regards health, hygiene, and working and social conditions.

Article 5

1. Attacks against persons not taking part in acts of violence shall be prohibited in all circumstances.

2. Whenever the use of force is unavoidable, it shall be in proportion to the seriousness of the offence or the objective to be achieved.

3. Weapons or other material or methods prohibited in international armed conflicts must not be employed in any circumstances.

Article 6

Acts or threats of violence the primary purpose or foreseeable effect of which is to spread terror among the population are prohibited.

Article 7

1. The displacement of the population or parts thereof shall not be ordered unless their safety or imperative security reasons so demand. Should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measures shall be taken in order that the population may be transferred and received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety, and nutrition. Persons or groups thus displaced shall be allowed to return to their homes as soon as the conditions which made their displacement imperative have ceased. Every effort shall be made to enable those so displaced who wish to remain together to do so. Families whose members wish to remain together must be allowed to do so. The persons thus displaced shall be free to move around in the territory, subject only to the safety of the persons involved or reasons of imperative security.

2. No persons shall be compelled to leave their own territory.

Article 8

1. Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his or her life.

2. In addition to the guarantees of the inherent right to life, and the prohibition of genocide, in existing human rights and humanitarian instruments, the following provisions shall be respected as a minimum.

3. In countries which have not yet abolished the death penalty, sentences of death shall be carried out only for the most serious crimes. Sentences of death shall not be carried out on pregnant women, mothers of young children or on children under eighteen years of age at the time of the commission of the offence.

4. No death sentence shall be carried out before the expiration of at least six months from the notification of the final judgement confirming such death sentence.

Article 9

No sentence shall be passed and no penalty shall be executed on a person found guilty of an offence without previous judgement pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by the community of nations. In particular:

(a) The procedure shall provide for an accused to be informed without delay of the particulars of the offence alleged against him or her, shall provide for a trial within a reasonable time, and shall afford the accused before and during his or her trial all necessary rights and means of defence;

(b) No one shall be convicted of an offence except on the basis of individual penal responsibility;

(c) Anyone charged with an offence is presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law;

(d) Anyone charged with an offence shall have the right to be tried in his or her presence;

(e) No one shall be compelled to testify against himself or herself or to confess guilt;

(f) No one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he or she has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure;

(g) No one shall be held guilty of any criminal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a criminal offence, under applicable law, at the time when it was committed.

Article 10

Every child has the right to the measures of protection required by his or her condition as a minor and shall be provided with the care and aid the child requires. Children who have not yet attained the age of fifteen years shall not be recruited in or allowed to join armed forces or armed groups or

allowed to take part in acts of violence. All efforts shall be made not to allow persons below the age of eighteen to take part in acts of violence.

Article 11

If it is considered necessary for imperative reasons of security to subject any person to assigned residence, internment or administrative detention, such decisions shall be subject to a regular procedure prescribed by law affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by the international community, including the right of appeal or to a periodical review.

Article 12

In every circumstance, the wounded and sick, whether or not they have taken part in acts of violence, shall be protected and treated humanely and shall receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required by their condition. There shall be no distinction among them on any grounds other than their medical condition.

Article 13

Every possible measure shall be taken, without delay, to search for and collect wounded, sick and missing persons and to protect them against pillage and ill-treatment, to ensure their adequate care, and to search for the dead; prevent their being despoiled or mutilated, and to dispose of them with respect.

Article 14

1. Medical and religious personnel shall be respected and protected and shall be granted all available help for the performance of their duties. They shall not be compelled to carry out tasks which are not compatible with their humanitarian missions.

2. Under no circumstances shall any person be punished for having carried out medical activities compatible with the principles of medical ethics, regardless of the person benefiting therefrom.

Article 15

In situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions or public emergency, humanitarian organizations shall be granted all the facilities necessary to enable them to carry out their humanitarian activities.

Article 16

In observing these standards, all efforts shall be made to protect the rights of groups, minorities and peoples, including their dignity and identity.

Article 17

The observance of these standards shall not affect the legal status of any authorities, groups, or persons involved in situations of internal violence, disturbances, tensions or public emergency.

Article 18

1. Nothing in the present standards shall be interpreted as restricting or impairing the provisions of any international humanitarian or human rights instrument.

2. No restriction upon or derogation from any of the fundamental rights of human beings recognized or existing in any country by virtue of law, treaties, regulations, custom, or principles of humanity shall be admitted on the pretext that the present standards do not recognize such rights or that they recognize them to a lesser extent.

B. Specialized agencies

1. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English]

[15 October 1991]

1. UNESCO contributes to international humanitarian activities in two different ways. Firstly, it encourages research on humanitarian issues, exchange of information and dissemination of international humanitarian law. Secondly, in the fields of its competence, namely, education and culture, it undertakes operational activities and contributes substantially to the international community's humanitarian efforts.

1. Research, information and dissemination

2. UNESCO has carried out programmes related to humanitarian issues since the early 1980s. Those programmes have consisted mainly of international law concerning refugees.

3. In December 1981 UNESCO organized a symposium on the promotion, dissemination and teaching of fundamental human rights of refugees, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations University (UNU). The purpose of the symposium was to examine whether the present international refugee law provides enough protection, given various new phenomena in movements of people (for example, problems of ecological displacement and economic push factors) and how refugee law could be meaningfully taught at universities.

4. A manual of humanitarian law, the International Dimensions of Humanitarian Law, was published in cooperation with the Henry Dunant Institute in French (Pedone, 1986), in English (Martinus Nijhoff, 1988) and in Spanish (Technos, 1990). Co-publication with York University, Toronto, Cannada, of New Forms of Discrimination Related to International Migrations is under way. UNESCO also published research papers on migrations. They are: "International migration today" (vol. 1 and 2, 1988); and "International migrations and mental health" (1988).

2. Operational activities: emergency and humanitarian assistance

1. Cambodia

5. As an initial response to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 45/3 on "The situation in Cambodia", which, inter alia, called upon the United Nations and its specialized agencies to assist in the repatriation and rehabilitation of Cambodian refugees and displaced persons, as well as in the economic and social reconstruction of Cambodia within the framework of a comprehensive political settlement, UNESCO fielded an intersectoral basic needs assessment mission to Cambodia from 20 January to 5 February 1991. The mission, including seven specialists in the fields of education, science, culture and communication, carried out an initial assessment of the country's assistance needs and identified specific areas for potential UNESCO intervention, after close consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), among other United Nations bodies. The draft report of the mission issued in February has been forwarded to the permanent delegates of the major donor Governments to solicit their financial and moral support to enable UNESCO to implement activities relative to repatriation and rehabilitation, as well as in the preparation of activities to be carried out when the political settlement is reached.

2. Liberian refugees

6. Pursuant to the Executive Board resolution entitled "Situation of Liberian refugees", adopted at its one hundred thirty-fifth session, the request for emergency assistance submitted by the Government of Guinea to help provide basic educational supplies to the Liberian refugees in the region of

Guinea Forestière has now been officially approved by UNESCO. In addition to this material support, UNESCO is in the process of identifying an education expert to undertake a short-term assignment of several months to develop basic education curriculum for Liberian refugees in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire to complement educational assistance being provided by UNHCR. In this connection, UNESCO wishes to pay tribute to the Government of Colombia, whose generous contribution in support of UNESCO's emergency activities will finance part of UNESCO's technical support activity on behalf of the Liberian refugees.

7. The Persian Gulf Crisis and the ensuing war have not only devastated infrastructures and halted the services of the social sectors of concern to UNESCO in Iraq and Kuwait but have also had an adverse impact on these sectors in neighbouring countries of the region, notably Jordan, Egypt, Yemen and to a lesser extent the Syrian Arab Republic. In view of the region-wide ramifications, an intersectoral working group on the Middle East and its task force were established at UNESCO in February 1991. The task force maintains regular contacts with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), acting as the coordinating body of all United Nations bodies involved in the emergency humanitarian effort, as well as with UNHCR for refugee assistance and with UNDP for post-war reconstruction plans. UNESCO participated in the Inter-agency Mission to Kuwait led by former Under-Secretary-General Mr. Adulrahmin Farah in March 1991.

8. In view of these developments, the Director-General instructed the secretariat to review and re-establish the priorities of all its planned regular budget activities in the region taking into consideration impediments to the execution of such activities due to security and other considerations, as well as to accommodate new pressing needs caused by the conflict. The Director-General also instructed the transfer of $1 million from the regular participation programme to the participation programme emergency assistance appropriation to meet the basic material and technical assistance needs of the countries affected by the crisis.

2. World Health Organization

[Original: English]

[23 October 1991]

1. The right to health

1. The Constitution of WHO of 1946 affirms that:

> "The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition."

2. This basic human right was proclaimed, by the founding fathers of WHO in July 1946, before the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. What it implies in practical terms for the individual is a right to know about health, a right to be protected against major risks, a right to have access to services in the field of health promotion, prevention, care and rehabilitation, and the right to live in an environment that is supportive of health. Associated with this right is the responsibility of the individual to promote a healthy environment and to follow a healthy lifestyle.

4. The Thirtieth World Health Assembly decided in resolution WHA30.43 that the main social target of Governments, international organizations and the world community in the coming decades should be "the attainment by all peoples of the world by the year 2000 of a level of health that will permit them to lead a socially and economically productive life". The international health conference held at Alma-Ata, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in 1978, declared that primary health care is the key to attaining this target, based as it is on equity and social justice. Primary health care marked a turning-point in strategies for health care by moving the emphasis away from a predominantly disease-oriented and curative focus to one that emphasizes the prevention of ill health, the removal of health risks and the promotion of health. WHO subsequently issued guiding principles for formulating national strategies for health for all and prepared a Global Strategy, which was adopted by the World Health Assembly in 1981 and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in the same year.

5. The evaluation of the strategy by member States of WHO in 1991 has revealed that there have been appreciable successes over the past decade, despite severe economic constraints. For example, global infant mortality has fallen from 86 to 63 per 1,000 live births, and life expectancy at birth has increased from 60 years to 66 years. The rate of growth of the world's population has started to slow down and is currently at 1.73 per cent.

6. Nevertheless, the goal of achieving health for all as a basic human right remains, for large numbers of people, in both developed and developing countries, and particularly the most vulnerable among them, a state of being that has yet to be materialized. Hence the efforts being made by WHO, in collaboration with a wide spectrum of partners, to place health at the very centre of human development and to take practical steps towards achieving health for all. Major strategies include the following:

(a) In May 1988 resolution WHA41.34 reaffirmed the Declaration of Alma-Ata and emphasized that it remains valid for all countries at all stages of social and economic development, and that the application of its principles should be maintained after the year 2000.

(b) In May 1989, the World Health Assembly urged member States to maintain the political commitment to reduce the inequities among different population groups and to strengthen the infrastructure for health, making optimum use of all available financial resources through improved efficiency

and a sharper focus on priority health problems and geographically and socially disadvantaged areas. The Health Assembly also considered ways and means of strengthening technical and economic support to countries facing serious economic constraints.

(c) In resolution WHA42.3 (May 1989), the Health Assembly called on the international community to increase cooperation substantially, particularly with countries in greatest need, and urged member States to continue to mobilize resources for restructuring national health systems on the basis of the primary health care approach, while ensuring that in implementing economic adjustment programmes, specific measures were taken in cooperation with international financial institutions to protect the essential health services and the population's health status. The Health Assembly also expressed its concern that uncontrolled development and the indiscriminate use of technology have degraded the environment, and that this increasingly poses threats to the health of present and future generations and the sustainability of the development process itself, and stressed the need for the elaboration of both national and international policies and strategies that would focus on the interdependence between development, the environment and health.

(d) In 1990 the Health Assembly in resolution WHA43.17 called on the international community to intensify support to countries and peoples in greatest need and, using all means available, to support countries' efforts to achieve sustainable development of their health systems in the context of overall national economic adjustment policies.

(e) In 1991 the Health Assembly in resolution WHA44.24 requested member States to take into account the outcome of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, especially the need to include a health component in socio-economic development programmes and cooperation activities, and also requested the Director-General of WHO to formulate a policy for health actions aimed at striking a balance between medium and long-term activities and those carried out to meet urgent short-term needs.

7. Thus, the Health Assembly has progressively sharpened the focus on the countries most in need of increased international cooperation to alleviate the serious health and related humanitarian problems emanating from a depressed state of social and economic development.

8. WHO is engaged in many studies that will form the basis for new approaches in the 1990s and beyond, for example, on the relationships between health status and health coverage, and such factors as demographic and economic trends, the environment and technological developments. WHO is seeking to develop appropriate methods for health promotion and advocacy for healthy lifestyles. The Organization is endeavouring to promote the role of women in health and development, a subject that will be discussed in depth at the 1992 World Health Assembly. Priority is accorded to programmes intended to improve child health, particularly in the developing countries, through, for example, the Expanded Programme on Immunization, which already has considerable achievements to its credit, attributable in large part to

fruitful partnership with countries and with other agencies of the United Nations system, including UNICEF. On 8 October 1991, the Director-General of WHO and the Executive Director of UNICEF officially certified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that 80 per cent of the world's children had been immunized against six killer diseases, a goal established five years earlier. The organization is now endeavouring to maintain a high level of immunization coverage: at least 90 per cent of children under one year of age by the year 2000.

9. Continuing efforts are being made to ensure that children, pregnant women and other vulnerable groups are assured adequate diets and standards of nutrition. In 1987, a significant step was taken to combat the high levels of maternal mortality in developing countries, a tragedy that can be prevented, through the elaboration and implementation of the Safe Motherhood Programme in collaboration with other international organizations. Great emphasis is placed on prevention, while recognizing that successful prevention programmes are contingent upon health education and information that is sensitive to the cultural and psychosocial specificities of the populations and communities that are addressed. Such programmes, developed and conceived with a view not merely to health protection but rather to health promotion, can make a real impact on people's health. WHO is focusing on the causes of ill-health - not merely those of microbial origin but also those intimately linked with lifestyle. Diseases of lifestyle (among them heart attacks, stroke, hypertension, cancer, pulmonary disease, diabetes and osteoporosis) are the case of between 70 and 80 per cent of deaths in the developed world. To cope with these and the continuing burden of communicable diseases, WHO is devising integrated approaches to disease prevention and control.

10. Another aspect of the right to health is WHO's contribution to the study of the effects of nuclear war. At the request of the World Health Assembly the Director-General of WHO established in 1981 an international committee of scientists and experts to study and report on the effects of nuclear war on health and health services. Two reports, known as the WHOPAX reports, were published in 1984 and 1987, the latter, in particular, constituting WHO's contribution to the International Year of Peace, 1986 ("Effects of nuclear war on health and health services", Geneva, 1987). The experts concluded that no health services anywhere in the world would be able to deal significantly with the appalling health consequences of nuclear war, especially since the health services themselves would be largely destroyed or incapacitated. The only possible approach therefore would be the prevention of thermonuclear conflict.

2. High-priority areas

11. The priority areas identified below require concentrated collaborative efforts.

(a) AIDS

12. The scourge of AIDS is a global problem, which poses a serious threat to humanity, and urgent world-wide action is required to implement WHO's global

strategy to combat the spread of AIDS. The AIDS pandemic has raised a multitude of human rights issues, which WHO has consistently addressed in its efforts to carry out the global AIDS strategy. It was recognized early on in the pandemic that preventing discrimination against persons infected with HIV was not only consistent with universally recognized human rights, but was equally critical to the safeguarding of public health against the spread of AIDS. For example, the discrimination against persons with HIV infection or AIDS results in their unjustified isolation and their reluctance to seek testing, counselling and needed health services. Discriminatory laws and policies that result in the violation of individual human rights and dignity drive HIV-infected people underground and undermine efforts to teach people how to protect themselves and others from the infection. WHO thus views the human rights aspects of HIV/AIDS as an integral part of all its activities in AIDS prevention and control, rather than as a separate issue.

13. In May 1988, the World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA41.24, "Avoidance of discrimination in relation to HIV-infected people and people with AIDS". The resolution urges WHO member States to foster a spirit of understanding and compassion for persons with HIV infection or AIDS through information, education and social support programmes, to protect the human rights and dignity of these people and avoid discriminatory action against and stigmatization of them in the provision of services, employment and travel. In September 1988, the Inter-agency Advisory Group was formed to facilitate effective coordination of AIDS activities of the United Nations system in support of WHO's global AIDS strategy. This forum has given WHO an opportunity to adopt policies addressing the avoidance of discrimination throughout the United Nations system and to encourage United Nations agencies to incorporate a human rights and avoidance of discrimination focus in their particular areas of competence, for example, AIDS education in schools (UNESCO), policy in the workplace (International Labour Organisation (ILO)) and information for travellers (World Tourism Organization (WTO)).

14. The World Health Assembly in May 1989 assessed the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS and adopted resolution WHA.42.33, which urged member States to continue to collaborate with WHO in a spirit of open dialogue in order to increase their capability for the prevention and control of AIDS. In furtherance of this resolution's aims and the fight against discrimination, WHO, through collaboration with national coordinating bodies on AIDS prevention and control, has increasingly provided expert assistance to address numerous ethical and discrimination problems that emerge in the design and implementation of national programmes. Resolution WHA42.33 pointed to the fact that non-governmental organizations can make a special impact on individuals and society in respect to the needs of those affected and urged member States to work in collaboration with such organizations to overcome discriminatory attitudes.

15. In 1990 the Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA43.10, on "Women, children and AIDS", which inter alia, urged member States to mobilize health and social services to respond to emerging needs, especially those of families that suffer discrimination and are not able to provide child care; and those children who are abandoned or orphaned.

16. Within the United Nations system, WHO has collaborated with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in an International Conference on AIDS and Human Rights held in July 1989, which published a joint report. The report was discussed and endorsed by the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which adopted resolution 1989/17 whereby it appointed a Special Rapporteur on this topic to whom WHO has provided technical assistance.

17. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations have been seized with the problem of AIDS over the last several years. The forty-sixth General Assembly has before it Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/66 which recalls various resolutions of the General Assembly, the Council and the Health Assembly concerning the need to respect the human rights and dignity of all people affected by AIDS/HIV and invites the General Assembly to take an appropriate decision for further action on this and other issues surrounding the AIDS pandemic.

(b) Sale of human organs

18. A specific problem faced by WHO is in preventing the purchase and sale of human organs. The Forty-Second World Health Assembly, in resolution WHA42.5 of 15 May 1989, was concerned by the commercial trafficking in the organs of healthy donors, which exploits human distress and puts at increased risk the health of the donors. Anxious to prevent this exploitation, particularly in children and other vulnerable groups, the Health Assembly called upon member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the purchase and sale of human organs for transplantation, and recommended that they introduce legislation to prohibit trafficking in organs where this cannot effectively be prevented by other measures. The Forty-Fourth Health Assembly, in resolution WHA44.25 (May 1991), endorsed guiding principles on human organ transplantations.

(c) The mentally ill

19. WHO continues to work closely with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on the subject of the rights of the mentally ill. WHO participated in the discussions of two working groups of the Commission in January and November 1990, which produced a final draft of Principles for the Protection of Persons with Mental Illness and for the Improvement of Mental Health Care (see General Assembly resolution 46/119, annex).

(d) Disability

20. In its resolution WHA42.28 of 19 May 1989, the Health Assembly turned its attention to disability prevention and rehabilitation, noting the great medical, economic, social and psychological impact of disability in some 400 million people throughout the world, including some 50 million suffering from visual impairment and an equal number with severe hearing impairment. The Health Assembly called on its members to remove physical, social and cultural barriers to the participation in society of disabled persons to ensure that relevant knowledge and technology for the prevention of disability

and for rehabilitation were utilized fully within the available resources. It requested the Director-General to give special attention to the provision of rehabilitative services for particular population groups such as children, the elderly, displaced persons, war victims and the victims of natural disasters.

(e) Self-determination

21. Within the context of United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence, WHO continued to cooperate with national liberation movements in southern Africa and in providing assistance to the front-line States as well as Lesotho and Swaziland. Particular attention has been given to the reconstruction and development of the health system in Namibia, including a review of legislation and regulations pertaining to health in order to remove from them all the discriminatory clauses.

22. Within the perspective of the General Assembly's concern for the Arab population in the occupied territories, including Palestine, WHO has paid specific attention to the health of the affected people, and the Health Assembly has reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to have its own institutions to provide health and social services, and decided that a complete programme and plan to meet the health needs of the Palestinian people in both the short and long term should be developed. WHO has continued its focus on the health and medical assistance to Lebanon, particularly in the light of the increasing numbers of wounded, handicapped and displaced persons, and the paralysis of economic activities, which in turn require urgent health and medical assistance. Similarly, health assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Cyprus has received the attention of the Health Assembly.

IV. REPLY RECEIVED FROM UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS, A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

[Original: English]

[30 September 1991]

1. The following paragraphs describe some of the work currently being undertaken by UNV in the humanitarian field, in cooperation with the wider United Nations family.

2. Sixty UNV specialists have been fielded in Afghanistan/Pakistan over the past two years, under the aegis of Operation Salaam (administered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance relating to Afghanistan (UNOCA), providing humanitarian support to both externally and internally displaced populations in this region. Needs assessment and monitoring returnees, assistance in the distribution of food aid, support to those village communities severely affected by the war and promoting self-help relief and development initiatives have been areas of key activity undertaken

by the Volunteers. The "teaming" of the volunteer specialists with other United Nations agencies (the World Food Programme, (WFP), UNHCR, WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control), and community workers have provided an understanding and effective collective response to the situation.

3. In Liberia, following the escalation of internal strife in the country, UNV specialists went in with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) and WFP to provide direct relief and humanitarian assistance to those affected communities. The distribution and monitoring of emergency food and medical supplies, and logistical support was carried out by the Volunteers. Their efforts within Liberia soon spread to border camps in neighbouring Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire, providing respite to the thousands of refugees who had fled there.

4. The response of UNV to the Namibian situation was a timely one. Following the withdrawal of the South African defence forces, which resulted in a sudden halt in the essential services provided by them, UNV specialists went in to "hold the fort", averting a complete collapse of health and education services in the country. Today 55 UNV specialists work in Namibia, primarily in the outlying districts, reaching those communities most affected by the lack of primary health care and education facilities. Technical backstopping is provided by WHO and UNESCO respectively. A few Volunteers are also involved in air traffic control and are technically supported by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

5. UNV interventions in Mozambique and Angola over the past few years have provided a similar response to the one above, enabling essential services to continue and reach affected communities, following the disruptions caused by the war situation in both countries. In Angola, UNV works in close cooperation with WHO in the health field.

6. UNDP project RAS/80/002, "Support to refugees in South-East Asia" co-funded by the United States, was designed to respond to an acute emergency of displaced persons flooding the region in the early 1980s. A total of 75 UNV specialists were assigned to work in close cooperation with UNHCR in six countries, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The volunteer specialists dealt primarily with matters such as resettlement counselling, camp administration, health care, water and sanitation, teacher training and community development. Today, a second regional project, RAS/91/V01, "UNV technical assistance to relief and humanitarian assistance to South-East Asia", has been initiated with UNHCR, using funds from Japan, to provide similar support in the region. Currently seven Volunteers serve in Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia. A number of UNV specialists under this new project will also be assigned to Cambodia in the near future.

7. A separate programme effort in Hong Kong came into effect early this year with 10 Volunteers working as voluntary repatriation counsellors, field assistants, doctors and nurses. These professionals work with the Government

and UNHCR to improve living conditions and the resettlement prospects of the large number of displaced Vietnamese based here.

8. Civil strife in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan has led to the displacement of numbers of people within these countries. Their situations have been further exacerbated by persistent drought and famine in the region. UNV has been called upon to work hand in hand with both international and local relief and rehabilitation programmes to provide the necessary humanitarian response, to relieve both immediate suffering as well as to energize a sustainable development effort in the longer term. UNHCR, WFP, and to some extent UNICEF have been involved in these efforts. Since 1981, close to 100 UNV specialists have served in Somalia alone, easing the repatriation and/or local integration process.

9. Today, much UNV effort has been focused on responding to the relief and rehabilitation needs arising out of the Persian Gulf crisis. Thirty UNVs currently serve in Iraq and Turkey, with a number of international partners such as UNHCR, UNICEF, Who, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP and the Iraq Relief Coordination Unit (IRCU). Their assignments range from setting up of camps, monitoring supplies and transportation of the displaced to technical assistance in public health, water and sanitation, and maternal and child health care. A number of UNV specialists were also assigned to Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran at the end of 1990 to assist with the evacuation of large numbers of persons at that time.

10. These are some of the field situations that UNV has responded to that have required humanitarian support. As part of UNDP, UNV always works in full consultation with the UNDP resident representatives (who are also UNV representatives) and also in close collaboration with other internatiional and local partner organizations. UNV has played a responsive support role to a number of United Nations agency special programmes, often operating as the point of direct field contact with displaced or "crisis" populations. However, greater and more proactive UNV involvement with other United Nations agencies at the early planning stages of programme intervention, with careful definition and design of the appropriate role for volunteer specialists in this field of work would bring about more lasting results. The stronger the planning and cooperation at all stages, the stronger have been the efforts and energies focused on bringing about both immediate and longer-term durable solutions to those populations affected by crisis, inequalities and the violation of basic rights.

11. UNV hopes to develop this strategic focus on humanitarian concerns further and to work towards a more planned, concerted programme approach sensitive to the fuller realization of rights and freedoms of all people. Issues to focus on would include designing policy, programme, project and post guidelines that would enhance sensitivity to these concerns; ensuring the targeting of disadvantaged groups; working closely with local partners and supporting community participation and self-help as a key to both humanitarian and development support; and encouraging greater awareness, dialogue and

operational links between Governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and community groups in the pursuit of the goals expressed in General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of international cooperation in the humanitarian field. These issues beg the questions: Is UNV headquarters and field presence adequate and appropriately set up to meet these demands? Are resources assured "up front" to enable fast response time? With greater United Nations involvement in humanitarian affairs called for today, how must the United Nations organizational structure and links between its agencies adapt to focus on meeting and working with these concerns?

12. At this time UNDP and UNV, together with a number of other multilateral bodies, are in the process of working out their specific roles in this area of support. There is much to be done. The strengthening of such international cooperation is a matter to which great importance is attached by UNV.